



SUBHADRA

BELOVED SISTER OF KRISHNA AND BALARAMA

Vol 758





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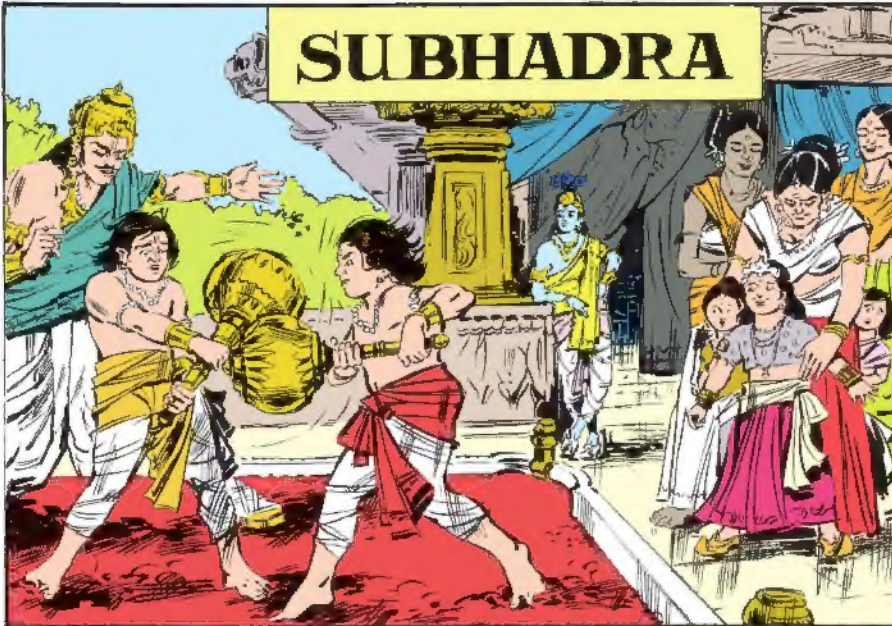
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SUBHADRA



SUBHADRA WAS THE BELOVED SISTER OF KRISHNA AND BALARAMA. BALARAMA, UNSURPASSED IN WIELDING THE MACE, TAUGHT MANY PRINCES THE ART.

BHEEMA, THE PANDAVA, AND HIS COUSIN DURYODHANA, THE KAURAVA WERE THE BEST PUPILS.



BHEEMA HAS STRENGTH, BUT DURYODHANA HAS THE SKILL.

OF THE TWO, DURYODHANA WAS HIS FAVOURITE.



WHEN THE COUSINS GREW UP, YUDHISHTHIRA, THE ELDEST PANDAVA, WAS PROCLAIMED THE HEIR APPARENT.

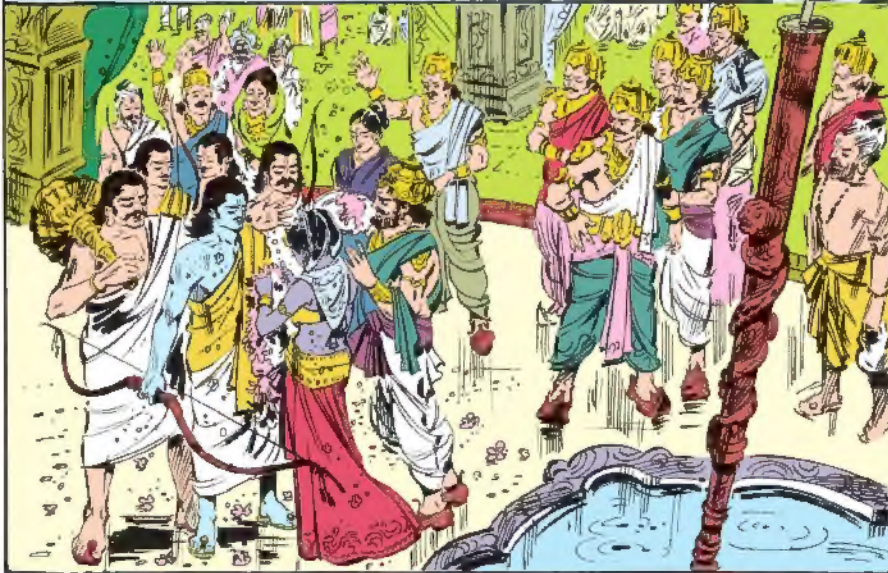


THE JEALOUS DURYODHANA TRIED TO BURN THEM ALIVE.

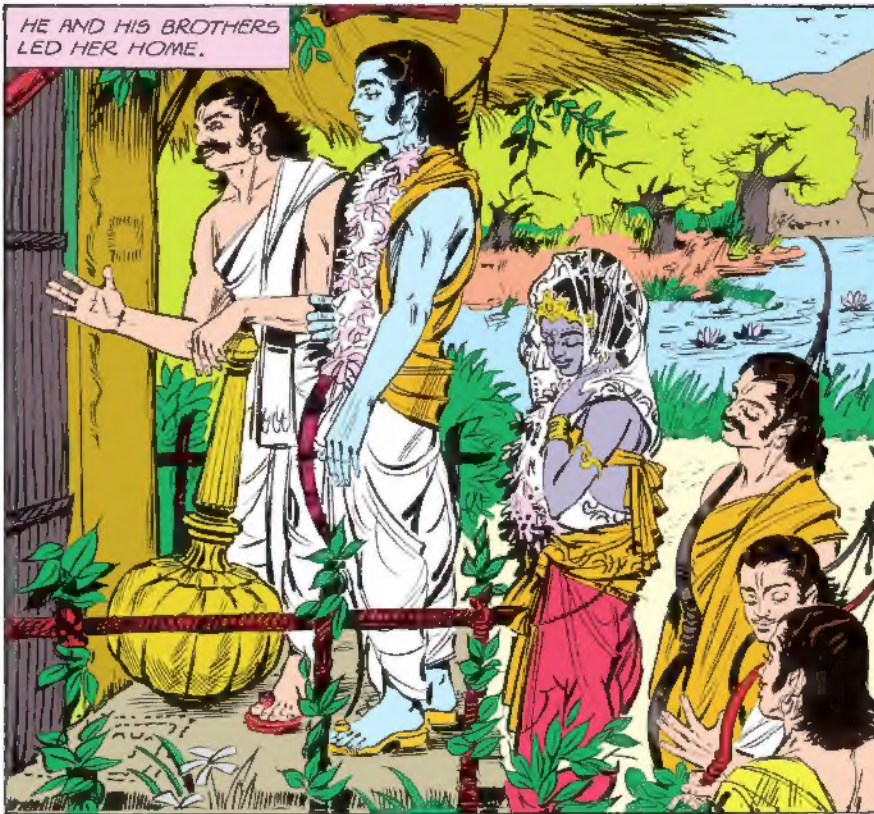


BUT THE PANDAVAS AND THEIR MOTHER KUNTI ESCAPED AND WENT INTO HIDING AS BRAHMANS.

WHILE THEY WERE IN HIDING, ARJUNA, THE PANDAVA WON DRAUPADI, THE PRINCESS OF PANCHALA IN A SWAYAMVARA.

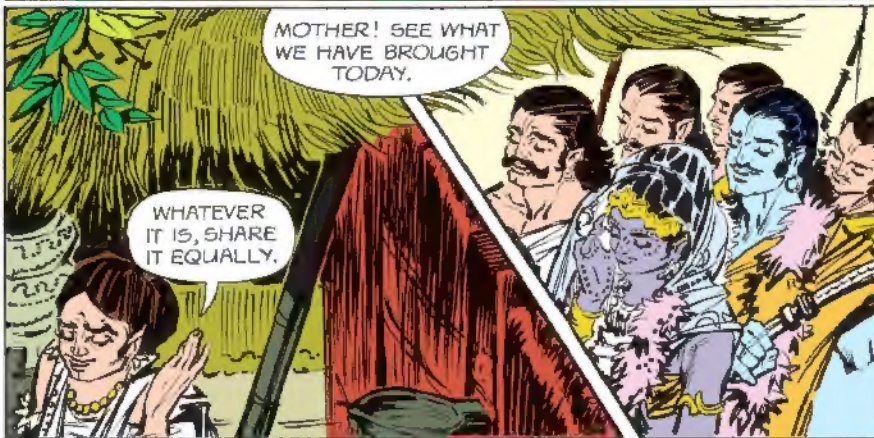


HE AND HIS BROTHERS
LED HER HOME.



MOTHER! SEE WHAT
WE HAVE BROUGHT
TODAY.

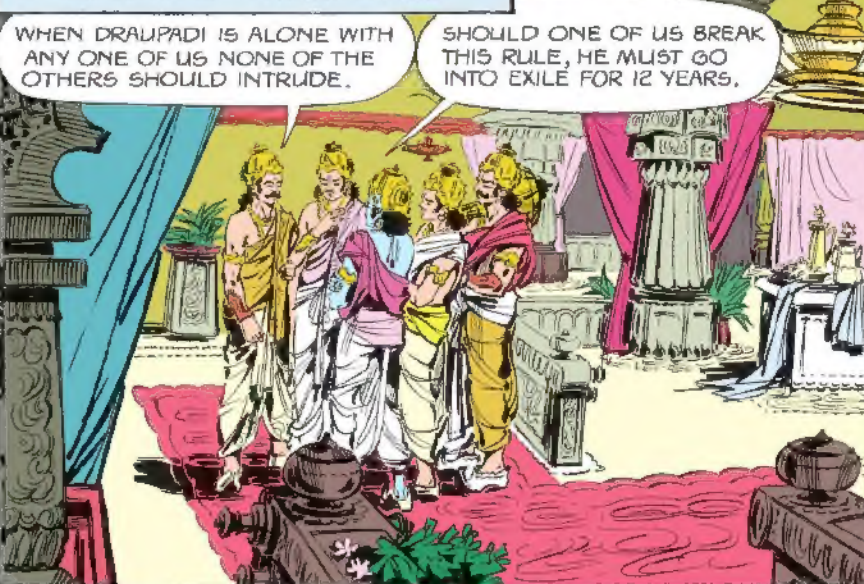
WHATEVER
IT IS, SHARE
IT EQUALLY.



SO DRAUPADI HAD TO BE WIFE TO ALL FIVE OF THEM. SOON AFTERWARDS HALF THEIR KINGDOM WAS RESTORED TO THEM AND THEY RETURNED WITH DRAUPADI AND MOTHER KUNTI, TO REIGN OVER IT.



THE PRINCES CAME TO AN AGREEMENT.



ONE DAY, DRAUPADI WAS ALONE WITH YUDHISHTHIRA.



JUST THEN A BRAHMAN CAME RUNNING TO ARJUNA.

O PANDAVA! THIEVES ARE DRIVING AWAY MY CATTLE. HELP! HELP!



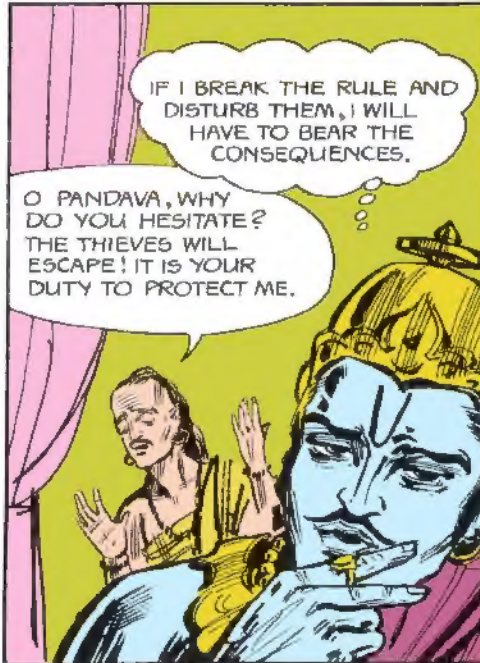
ARJUNA WAS IN A DILEMMA.

MY WEAPONS ARE IN YUDHISHTHIRA'S ROOM. AND DRAUPADI IS WITH HIM.



IF I BREAK THE RULE AND DISTURB THEM, I WILL HAVE TO BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES.

O PANDAVA, WHY DO YOU HESITATE? THE THIEVES WILL ESCAPE! IT IS YOUR DUTY TO PROTECT ME.





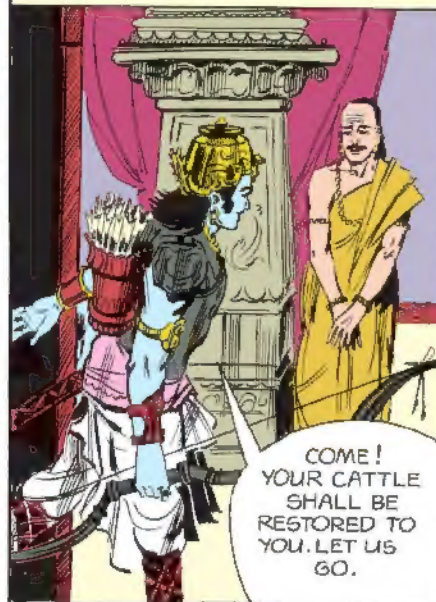
ARJUNA DECIDED TO BREAK THE RULE. HE RUSHED INTO THE ROOM...



...GRABBED THE WEAPONS...



...AND RUSHED OUT. THE BRAHMAN WAS WAITING FOR HIM.



ARJUNA RESTORED THE CATTLE TO THE BRAHMAN, AND RETURNED TO YUDHISHTHIRA.

I BROKE THE RULE.
I AM READY TO GO
AWAY FOR TWELVE
YEARS.

NO, BELOVED
BROTHER!
I FORGIVE YOU.
YOU MUST
NOT GO.



A RULE IS A RULE.
I HAVE BROKEN IT.
I WILL TAKE MY
PUNISHMENT.

AS YOU
WISH.



AS ARJUNA SET OUT, HE
WONDERED WHERE HE
SHOULD GO AND WHAT
HE SHOULD DO. AT LAST-

I WILL VISIT ALL
THE HOLY
PLACES ONE
BY ONE.



DURING THE COURSE OF HIS PILGRIMAGE, HE REACHED PRABHASA NEAR DWARAKA.



HE WENT UP CLOSER.

IT'S A SHAME. IT WERE BETTER IF THE ALLIANCE WERE WITH THE PANDAVAS.



AND RIGHT THERE ARJUNA
MADE A VOW TO HIMSELF.

AND SO
SHALL IT
BE. I SHALL
WIN THE
FAIR
SUBHADRA.



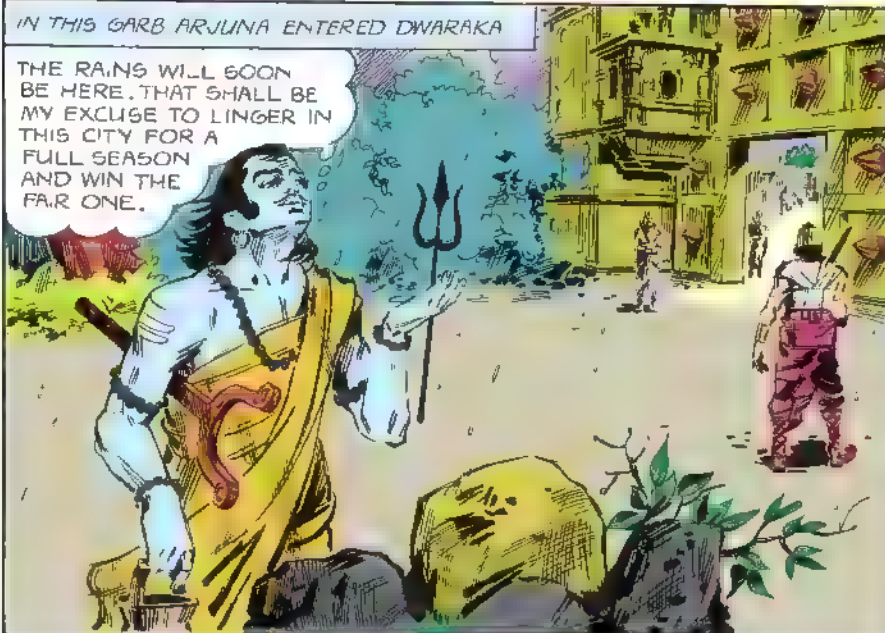
HE DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A
SANYASI.

THIS TRIDENT
IS THE SYMBOL
OF RENUN-
CATION.
BALARAMA
WILL NEVER
SUSPECT
WHO
I AM.



IN THIS GARB ARJUNA ENTERED DWARAKA

THE RAINS WILL SOON
BE HERE. THAT SHALL BE
MY EXCUSE TO LINGER IN
THIS CITY FOR A
FULL SEASON
AND WIN THE
FAIR ONE.

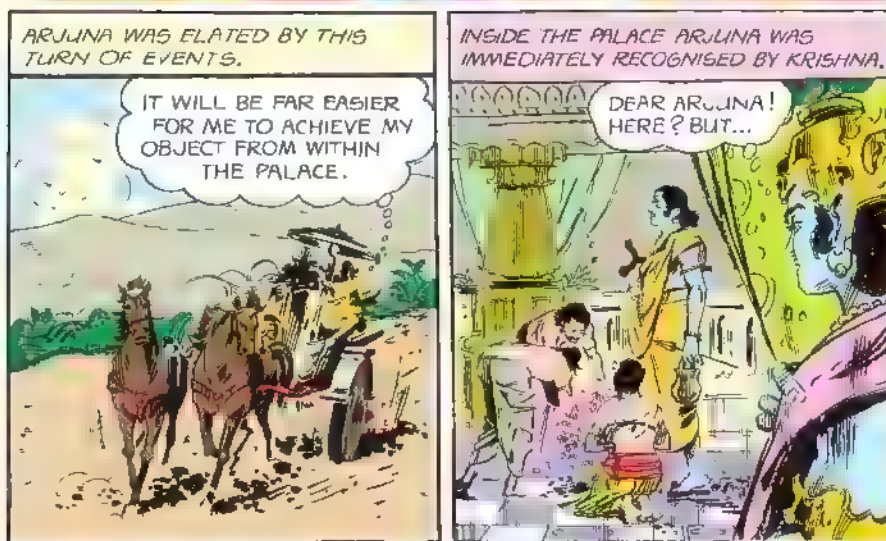
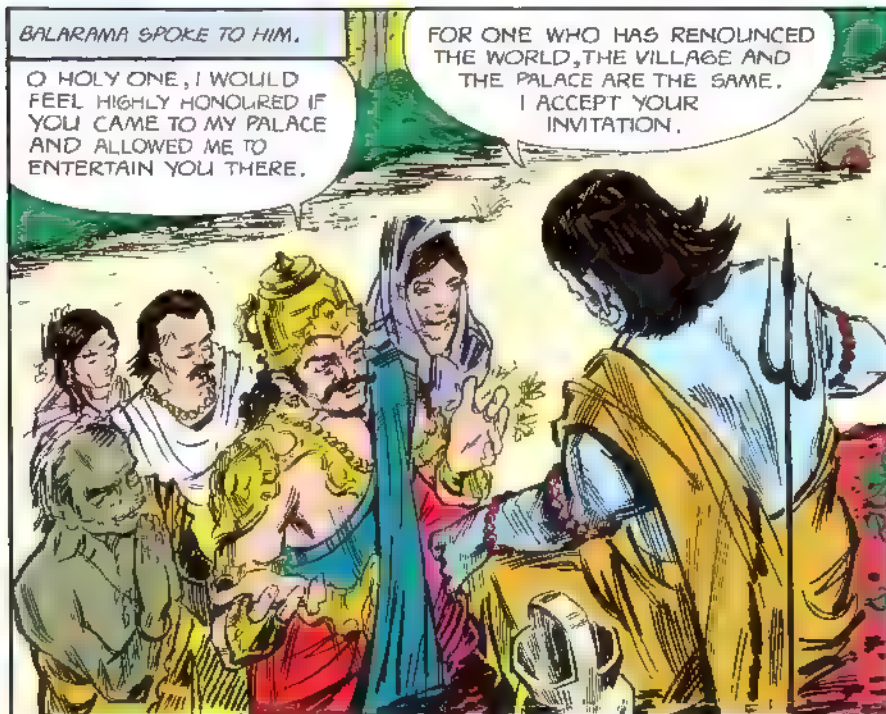


THE CITIZENS SAW THE SANYASI AND CAME TO PAY HIM THEIR RESPECTS. ONE DAY BALARAMA PASSED THAT WAY.

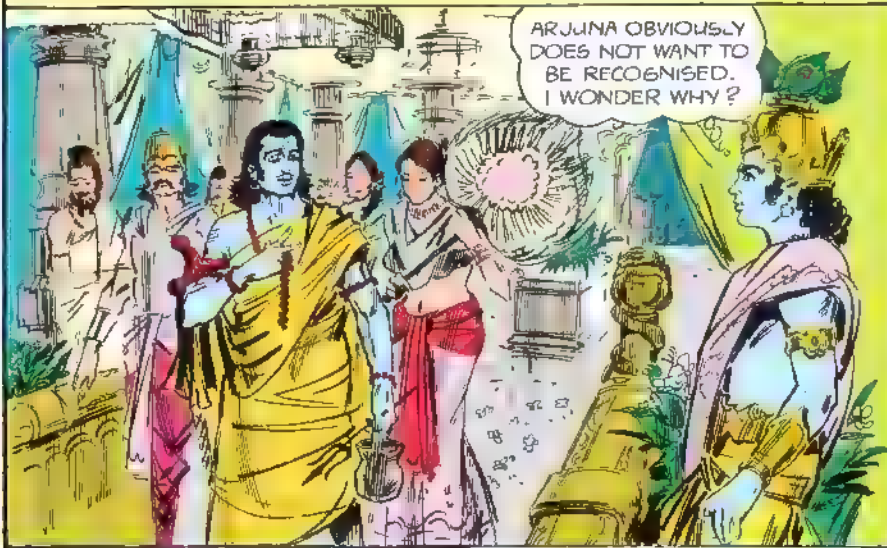


BALARAMA GOT DOWN FROM HIS CHARIOT AND WALKED UP TO THE SANYASI. THE MOMENT HE SAW ARJUNA, HE TOOK AN INSTANT LIKING TO HIM.





HE WAS ABOUT TO TALK TO HIM WHEN ARJUNA SILENCED HIM WITH A WINK.



KRISHNA TOOK THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION ARJUNA



ARJUNA TOLD HIM EVERYTHING. AS HE WAS ABOUT TO FINISH, A DAZZLING BEAUTY WITH HER BEVY OF MAIDS WALKED PAST THEM.

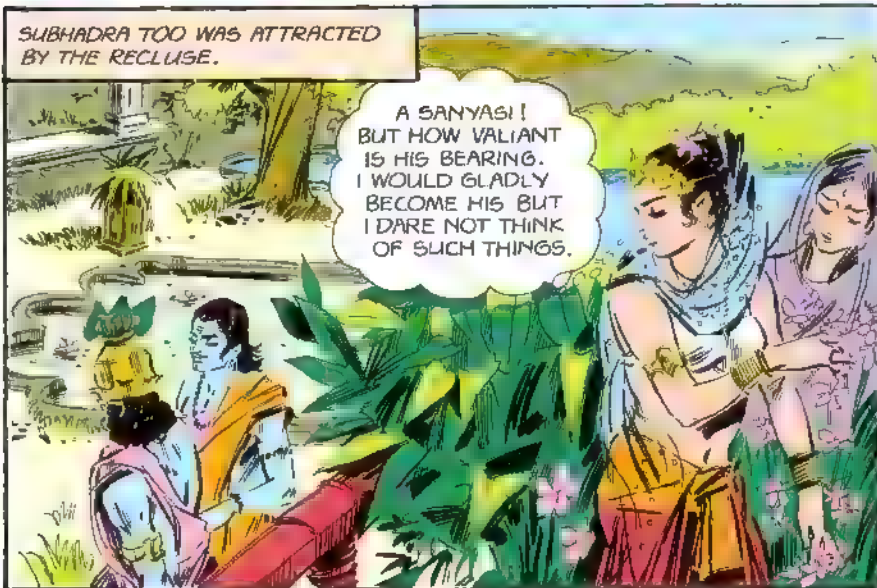
A GODDESS INCARNATE!
WHO IS SHE?

THAT IS
SUBHADRA.



SUBHADRA TOO WAS ATTRACTED
BY THE RECLUSE.

A SANYASI!
BUT HOW VALIANT
IS HIS BEARING.
I WOULD GLADLY
BECOME HIS BUT
I DARE NOT THINK
OF SUCH THINGS.

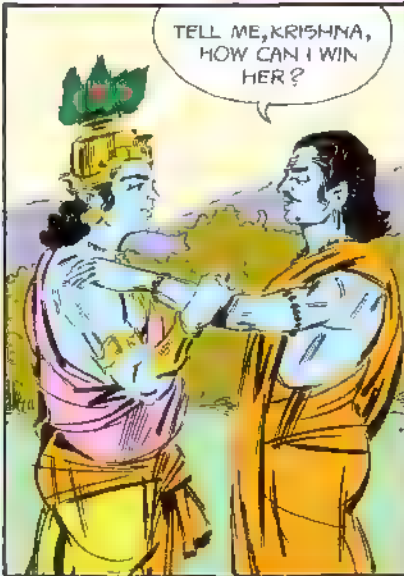


ARJUNA KEPT STARING AFTER HER.

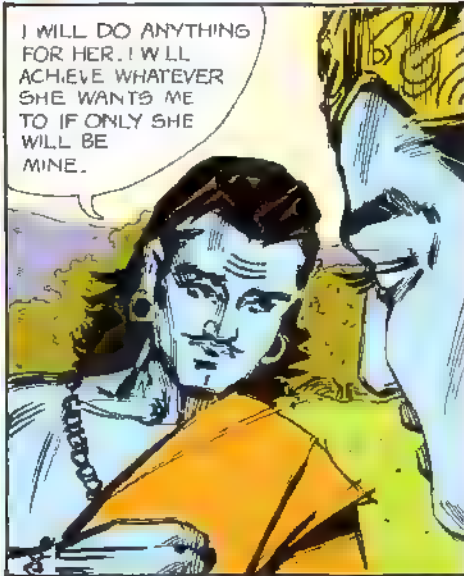
WHO CAN RESIST THE
CHARMS OF SUCH A
GIRL? WERE SHE
TO BECOME MY
WIFE, ALL PROSPERITY
WOULD BE MINE.



TELL ME, KRISHNA,
HOW CAN I WIN
HER?



I WILL DO ANYTHING
FOR HER. I WILL
ACHIEVE WHATEVER
SHE WANTS ME
TO IF ONLY SHE
WILL BE
MINE.



KRISHNA WAS DELIGHTED. HE PREFERRED ARJUNA TO DURYODHANA FOR HIS SISTER.

IF SHE IS WILLING, WHY DON'T YOU RUN AWAY WITH HER?



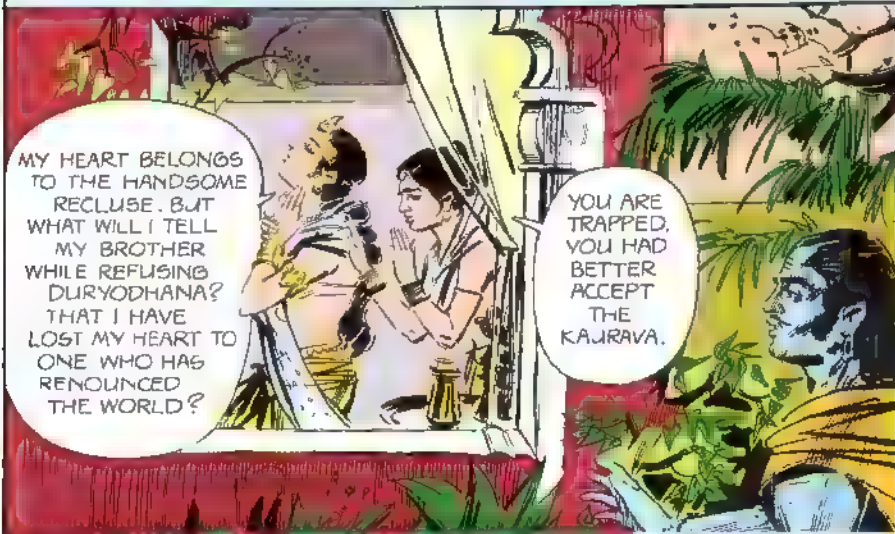
WOULD THAT BE PROPER?

YES. A BRAVE KSHATRIYA MAY ABDUCT A GIRL TO MARRY HER.



AS THE DAYS PASSED, ARJUNA OFTEN SAW SUBHADRA BUT HAD NO CHANCE TO FIND OUT WHAT SHE THOUGHT. THEN ONE DAY—

MY HEART BELONGS TO THE HANDSOME RECLUSE. BUT WHAT WILL I TELL MY BROTHER WHILE REFUSING DURYODHANA? THAT I HAVE LOST MY HEART TO ONE WHO HAS RENOUNCED THE WORLD?



YOU ARE TRAPPED. YOU HAD BETTER ACCEPT THE KAJRAVA.

THIS CONFESSION WAS ALL THAT ARJUNA NEEDED.

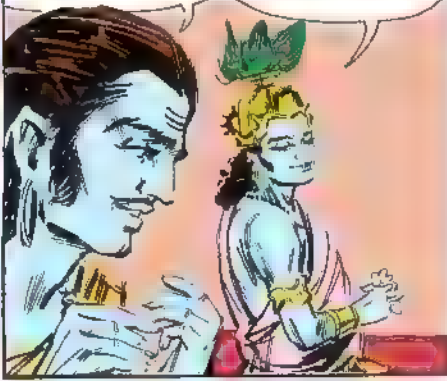


GOOD! NOW I MUST GET YUDHISHTHIRA'S APPROVAL.

ARJUNA THEN MET KRISHNA AND TOLD HIM WHAT HE HAD OVERHEARD.

BUT I MUST GET YUDHISHTHIRA'S CONSENT AND APPROVAL BEFORE I ACT.

THAT IS EASY. I WILL SEND A MESSENGER TO HIM STRAIGHTAWAY.

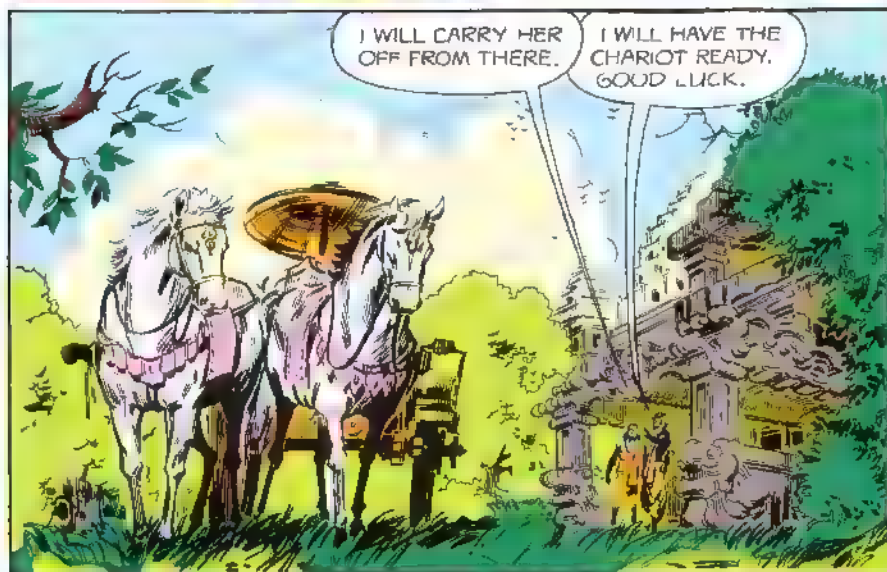
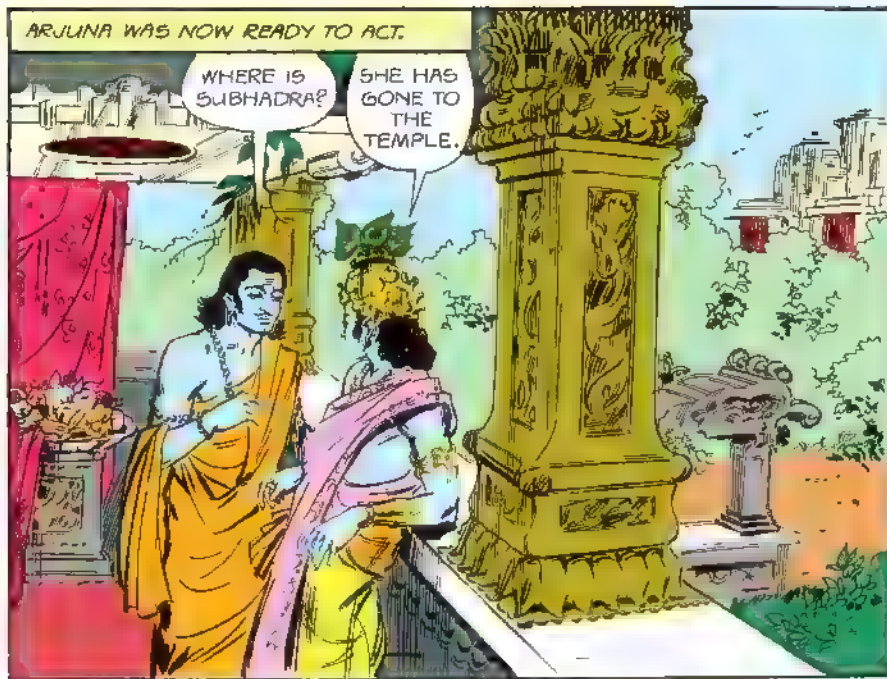


A FEW DAYS LATER THE MESSENGER RETURNED AND BROUGHT THE REPLY ARJUNA SOUGHT. KRISHNA GAVE HIM THE NEWS.

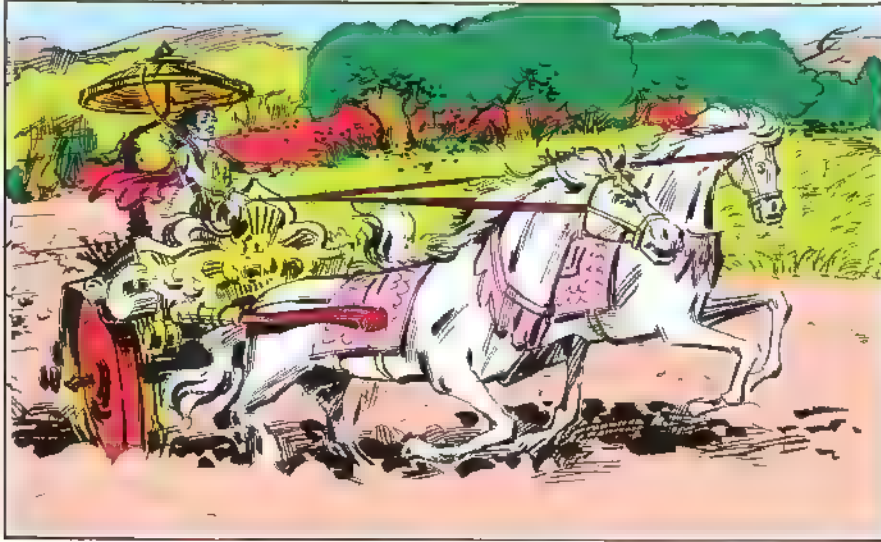


YUDHISHTHIRA HAS AGREED THAT OUR PLAN IS PROPER FOR A KSHATRIYA.

HAD NO DOUBT THAT HE WOULD.

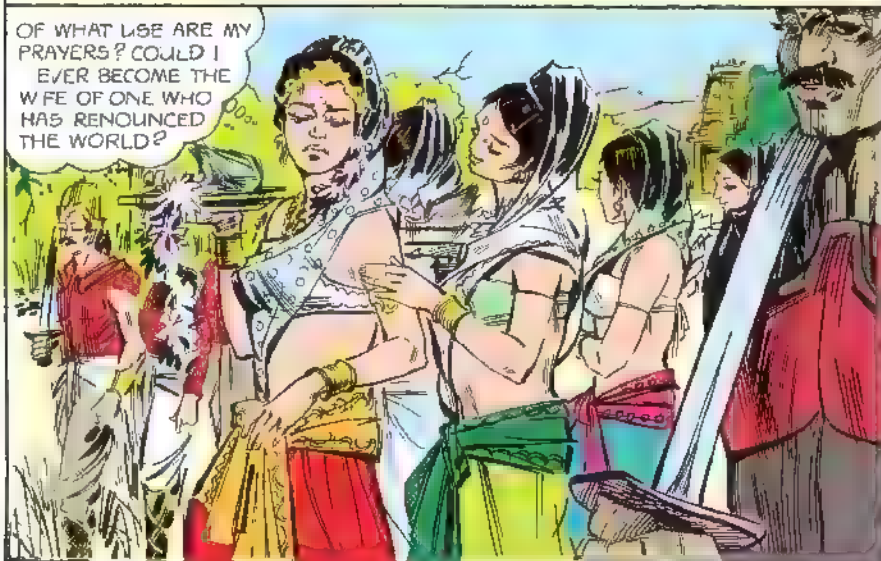


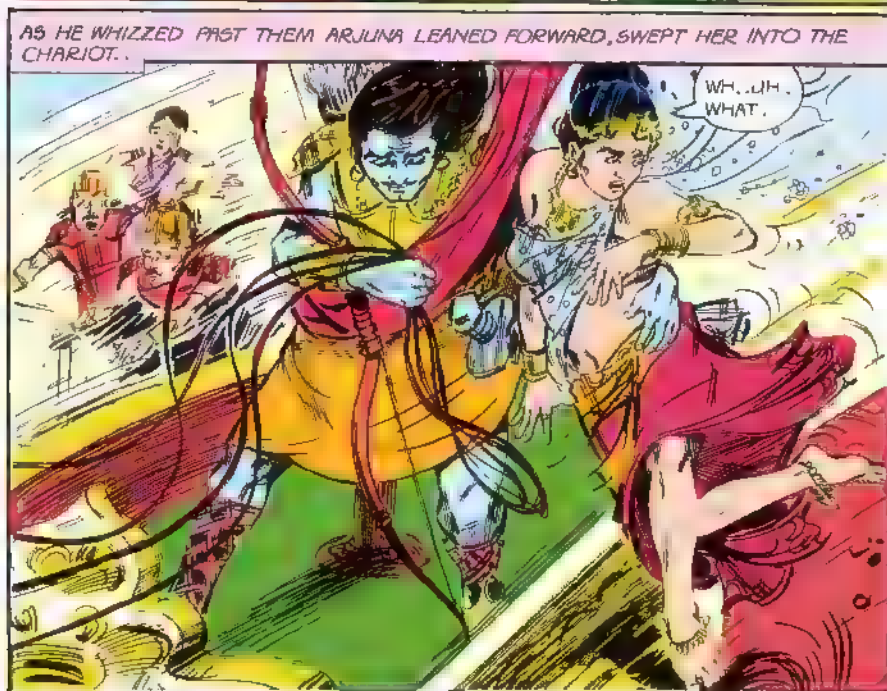
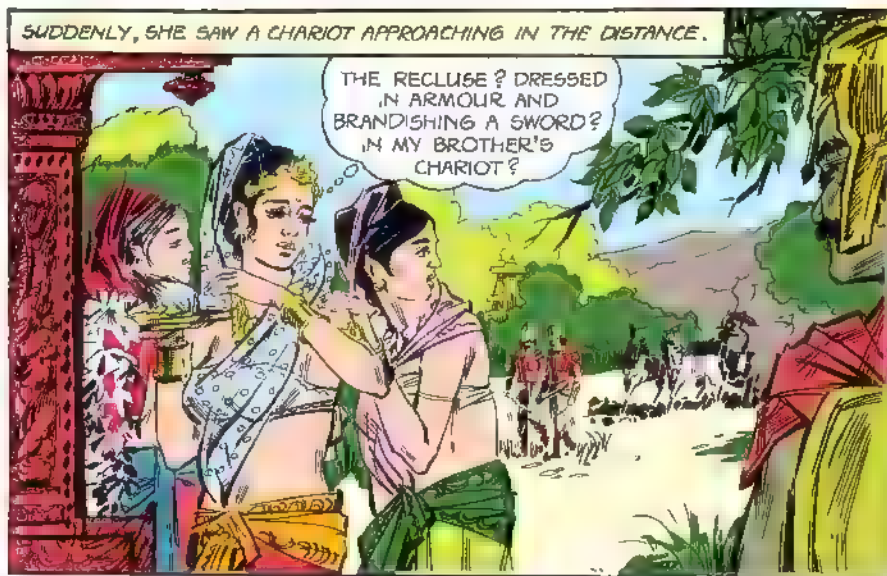
AS SOON AS THE CHARIOT WAS READY ARJUNA SET OUT TO TAKE HIS BRIDE.

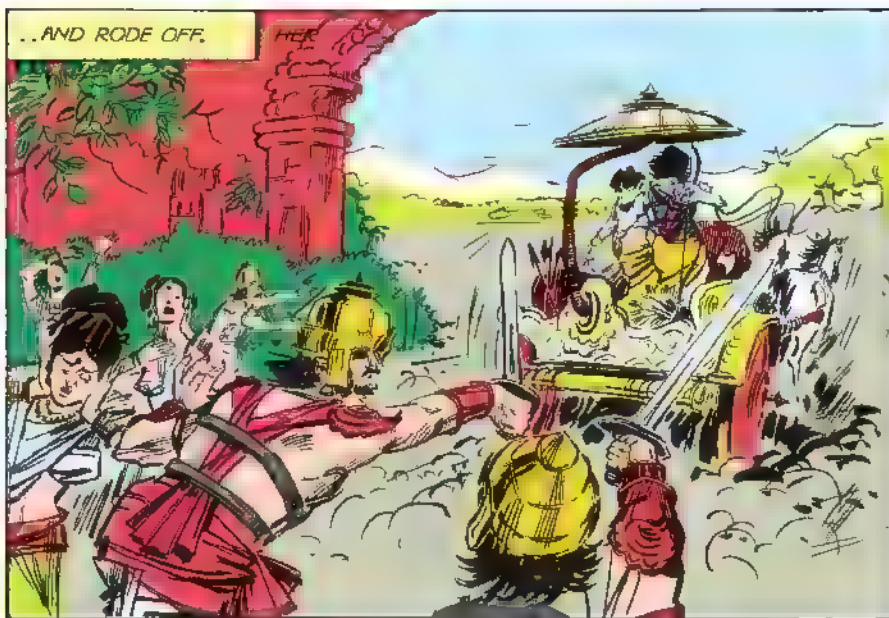


MEANWHILE SUBHADRA HAVING WORSHIPPED THE DEITIES, WAS ON HER WAY TO THE PALACE.

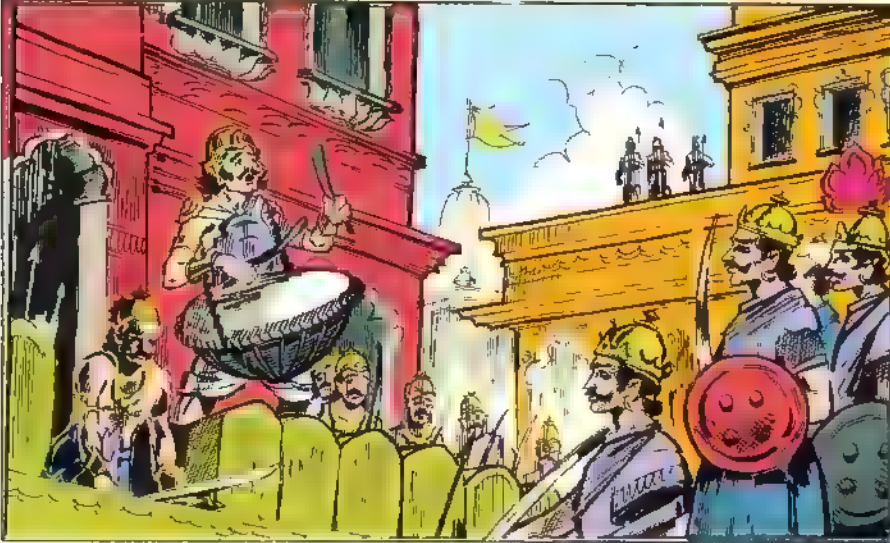
OF WHAT USE ARE MY PRAYERS? COULD I EVER BECOME THE WIFE OF ONE WHO HAS RENOUNCED THE WORLD?



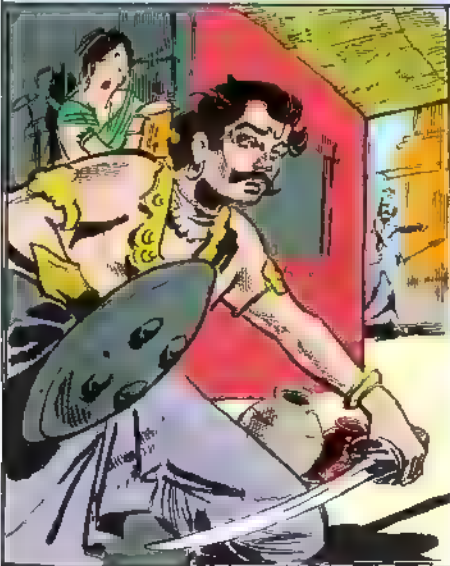




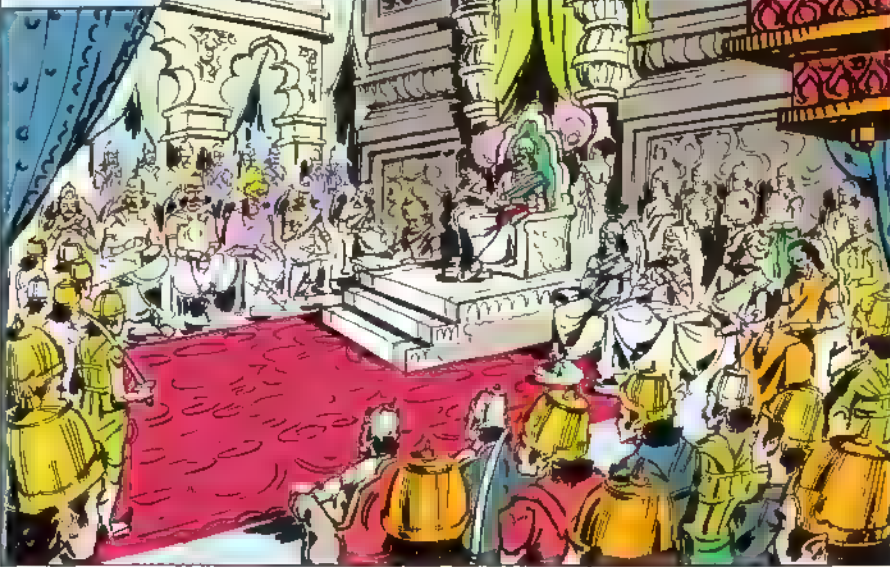
AS SOON AS THEY REACHED THE COURT AT DWARAKA, THEY RELATED THE WHOLE INCIDENT TO THE CHIEF OFFICIAL, WHO SUMMONED ALL THE CLANSMEN TO ARMS.



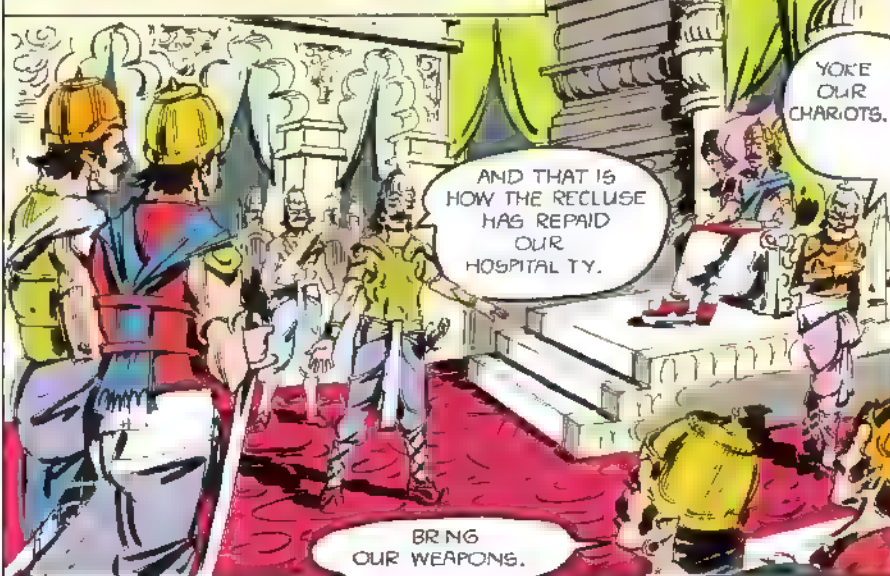
STIRRED BY THE CALL THE CLANSMEN LEFT WHATEVER THEY WERE DOING.



THEY POURED IN FROM ALL DIRECTIONS AND TOOK THEIR PLACES IN THE COURTROOM



THE CHIEF OFFICIAL TOLD THEM EVERYTHING



AND THAT IS
HOW THE RECLUSE
HAS REPAYED
OUR
HOSPITALITY.

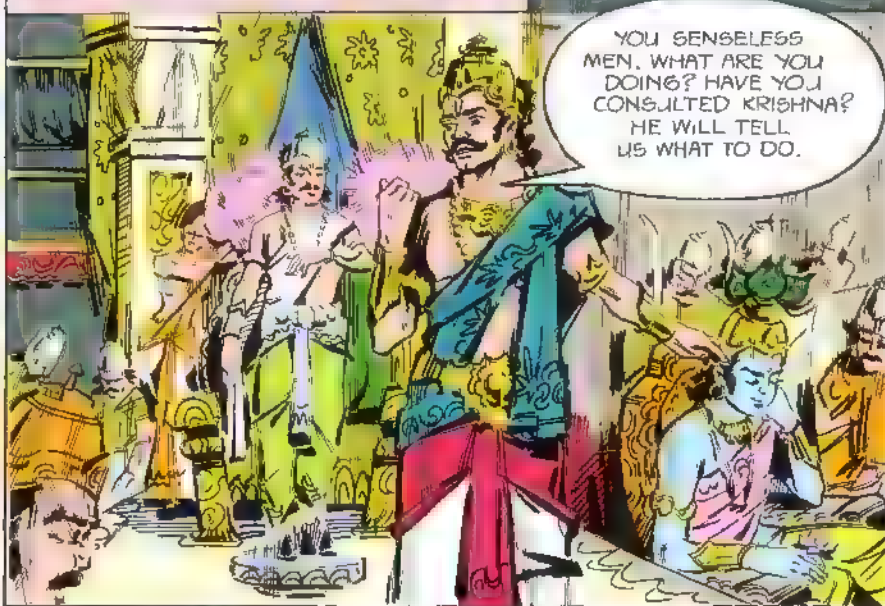
YOKE
OUR
CHARIOTS.

BRING
OUR WEAPONS.

LOUD WAS THE UPROAR WHEN THEIR CHARIOTS, ARMOUR AND STANDARDS WERE BEING ASSEMBLED.



AT THAT MOMENT BALARAMA CAME OUT.







BUT I HAD
DECIDED TO
GIVE HER TO
DURYODHANA.



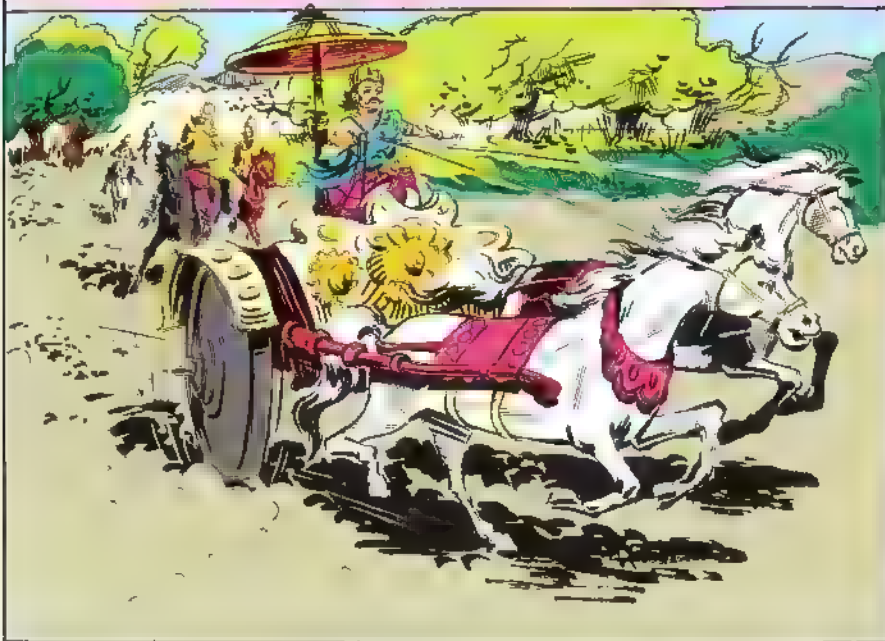
AGAINST HER
WISHES? ARJUNA
KNEW THIS, AND
BEHAVED AS A
KSHATRIYA SHOULD.



WE HAD BETTER
ACCEPT IT AND
NOT INTERFERE.
HE IS INVINCIBLE
IN BATTLE. IF WE
GIVE CHASE AND
ARE DEFEATED
BY HIM, WE WILL
LOSE FACE!



SO BALARAMA AND A FEW CLANSMEN SET OUT ON THE MISSION.



THEY SOON CAME UPON A STATIONARY CHARIOT. ARJUNA AND SUBHADRA WERE RESTING UNDER THE SHADE OF A TREE.

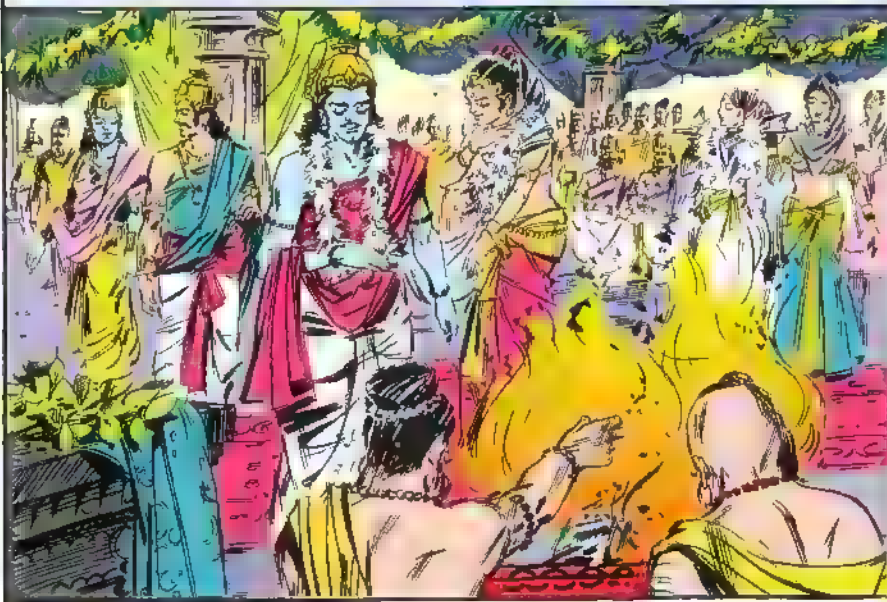


BALARAMA WALKED UP TO THEM.

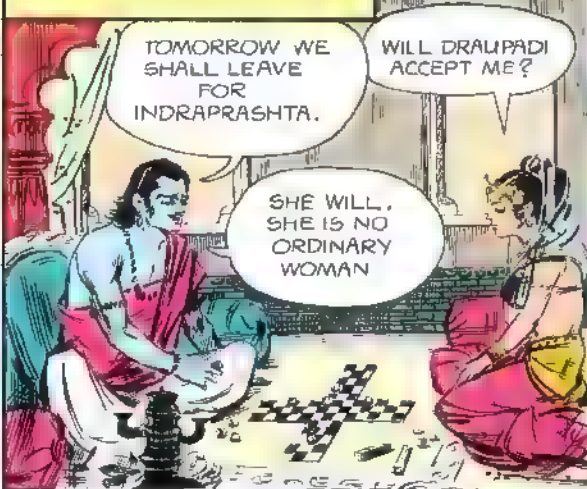
WE HAVE COME TO
TAKE YOU BACK, YOU
SHALL MARRY
SUBHADRA IN
OUR CITY.



LATER, AT DWARAKA, ARJUNA MARRIED SUBHADRA.



TIME FLEW PAST AND SOON
THE PERIOD OF ARJUNA'S
EXILE WAS OVER.



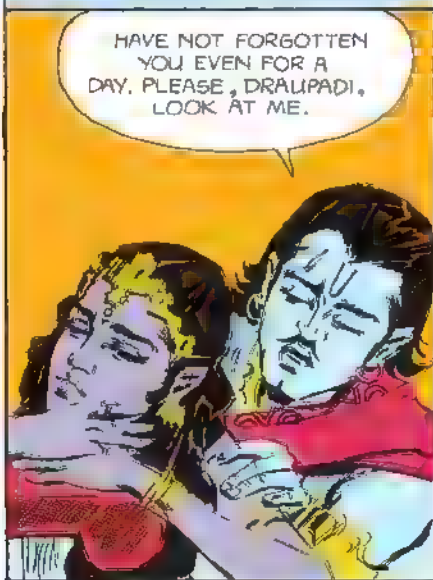
AT INDRAPRASHTA, THEY
FIRST PAID THEIR
RESPECTS TO
YUDHISHTHIRA.



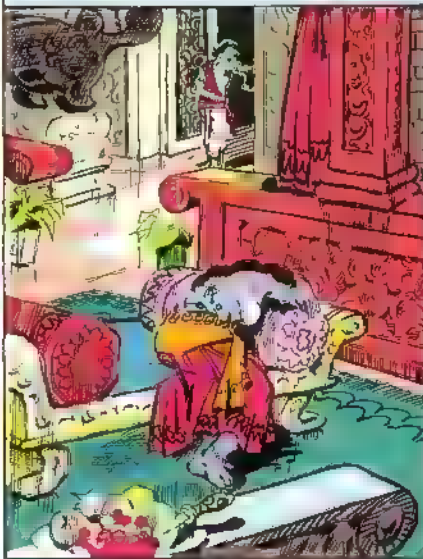
THEN LEAVING SUBHADRA IN THEIR CHAMBER, ARJUNA WENT TO DRAUPADI.



ARJUNA TRIED TO PACIFY HER.



BUT DRAUPADI WOULD NOT SOFTEN,
AND ARJUNA WENT OUT OF THE ROOM.







I SHALL WAIT
OUTSIDE. YOU
GO FIRST. I'LL
FOLLOW LATER.



SUBHADRA ENTERED.

I AM YOUR
MAID, ELDER
SISTER. I WILL
DO WHATEVER
YOU WANT
ME TO.

DRUPADI WAS MOVED AND ASHAMED. SHE ROSE HASTILY FROM HER
COUCH AND EMBRACED SUBHADRA.



WELCOME, MY
SISTER. LET OUR
HUSBAND BE
EVER
PROSPEROUS.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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EPICS & MYTHOLOGY

SUBHADRA

Balarama is sure that Duryodhana, the Kaurava prince, with his skill in wielding the mace will be the ideal husband for his sister, Subhadra. The princess, however, loses her heart to a handsome recluse who visits their palace. Little does she know that he is none other than the Pandava prince, Arjuna, and that he reciprocates her feelings. It is left to her other brother, Krishna, to understand the situation and solve the dilemma.

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